



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/397,578	09/16/1999	KEVIN PORTER	RIC-99-006	8934

25537 7590 08/02/2004
MCI, INC
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT
1133 19TH STREET NW, 10TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

BUI, BING Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2642

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2004

20

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/397,578

Applicant(s)

PORTER ET AL.

Examiner

Bing Q Bui

Art Unit

2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17 and 23-25 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 18 and 21-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grimes (US Pat No. 5,553,128).

Regarding claim 1, referring to Figure 1, Grimes teaches a method for processing a call made by a caller "102" directed to station set "107" where the call to be forwarded to a target station set "106", the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to forward calls directly to a first destination (e.g., call forwarding invoked by station set "107") to a second destination (e.g., station set "106") (see col. 3, Ins 9 – 14).

contacting the second destination to obtain an approval for forwarding calls to the second destination (e.g., the user of the station set such as station "107" (e.g., first destination) contacts the user of the target station set such as station set "106" (e.g., second destination) to request the user of target station set activate the call forwarding that allows or enables the user of the station set "107" to forward the call to the user of the station set "106"; see col. 3, Ins 9 – 14 and 49 – 55). It should be noted that by activating the call forwarding in response to the user of station set "107" requested for activating call forwarding, clearly the

Art Unit: 2642

user of target station set "106" gives the user of station set "107" the approval or permission of forwarding the call to him.

Regarding claims 2-3, Grimes teaches the steps of denying the request to forward calls when the approval is not obtained (e.g., call forwarding to be denied when the user of target station set "106" ignores activating the call forwarding in response to the user of station set "107" requested for activating call forwarding or actuates the deny call forwarding (see col. 3, lns 49 – 55 and col. 8, lns 11 – 20).

As to claims 4, 18 and 21-22, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claim 1 above, since claims 4 and 21-22 are merely a system for implementing the method defined in the method claim 1. Pertaining to claim 18, it should be specially noted that as claimed invention, Grimes teaches that the user of the station set such as station "107" (e.g., first destination) contacts the user of the target station set such as station set "106" (e.g., second destination) to request the user of target station set to activate the call forwarding that allows or enables the user of the station set "107" to forward the call to the user of the station set "106"; if the user of the station set "106" approves the request, he just simply activates the call forwarding (see col. 3, lns 49 – 55). Clearly, the step of contacting for requesting a call to be forwarded occurs before the step of activating call forwarding.

Regarding claims 6 and 10, Grimes teaches the first and second destination are telephone sets (see Fig 1, elements "106" and "107" and col. 2, lns 39 - 49).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

3. Claims 5 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grimes (US Pat No. 5,553,128) in view of Solomon et al (US Pat No. 5,361,295), herein after referred as Solomon.

Regarding claims 5 and 20, Grimes fails to explicitly teach the telecommunications system includes an interactive voice response (IVR) unit that generates a voice message for requesting the approval. However, Solomon teaches an intelligent peripheral I/P (IVR) that plays a caller's message to a target subscriber and have the target subscriber decides whether or not to accept a call forwarded to him or her from the I/P (col 11, lns 20-55). Having the cited art at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include an intelligent peripheral I/P (IVR) that plays a caller's message to a target subscriber and have the target subscriber decide whether or not to accept a call forwarded to him or her from the I/P, as taught by Solomon, in order to provide more flexibility to the caller-ID subscriber in recognizing the caller.

4. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grimes (US Pat No. 5,553,128) in view of Yamadera (US Pat No. 5,444,477), herein after referred as Yamadera.

Regarding claims 7-9, Grimes fails to explicitly teach first destination and second destination are computer systems which have capabilities of placing and receiving a call, respectively. However, Yamadera teaches the first destination

Art Unit: 2642

and second destination are computer systems which have capabilities of placing and receiving a call, respectively (Abstract; Fig 1, elements 101-105 and col 2, In 34-48). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate computer systems which have capabilities of placing and receiving a call, as taught by Yamadera , into the call forwarding system of Grimes for providing more flexibility in communication implementation.

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grimes (US Pat No. 5,553,128).

Regarding claim 19, extensions associated with a PBX and call processing with respect to these extension implemented by the PBX is well known in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 11-17 and 23-25 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bing Bui whose telephone number is (703)

Art Unit: 2642

308-5858. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on (703) 305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 and for formal communications intended for entry (please label the response EXPEDITED PROCEDURE) or for informal or draft communications not intended for entry (please label the response "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Paper Number : 20
Jul / 19 / 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bing Q. Bui', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

BING Q. BUI
Primary Examiner